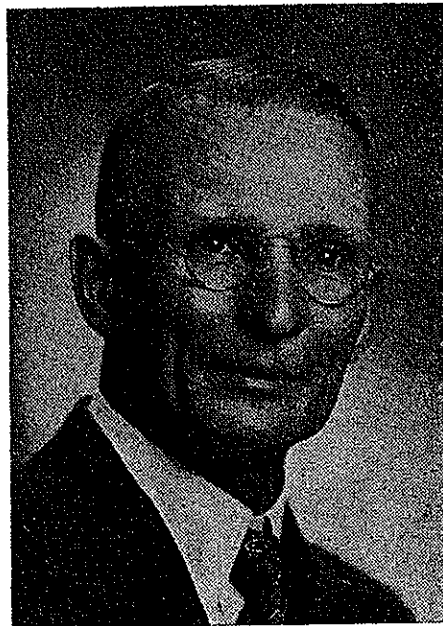


REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY



R. M. ANDERSON, B.A.Sc., O.L.S.

1889-1964

by A. A. Outram O.L.S.

In 1889, at Carberry, Manitoba, Ralph Mackenzie Anderson was born to Rev. D. and Mrs. Anderson. From Manitoba the family went to Wisconsin, and later to Ontario, residing for twenty-one years in Burlington. Ralph Anderson received his early education in Milverton and Burlington. He attended Central Collegiate Institute in Hamilton. In 1910 he received his B.A.Sc. degree from the University of Toronto. He was commissioned an Ontario Land Surveyor on May 2, 1911.

He served in World War I, first in Toronto with Corps of Guides, and joined 4th Divisional Cyclists Company on February 4, 1916. He went overseas from Halifax on April 28, 1916 with the rank of Lieutenant. In France, with the rank of Captain, in Canadian Corps Trainways he was engaged in military railway construction, not only behind the lines, but under fire in forward areas. He was still in action at the Battle of Amiens when the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. He was mentioned in dispatches.

Except for his military service, his life's work was surveying with the firm of Speight and Van Nostrand, where he articed and later became a partner. For about twenty years, a considerable portion of his time was spent in Northern Ontario, much of it with the late T. B. Speight, on township outlines; township subdivisions and on base and meridian lines. The development of the Home Smith Properties, in the Humber-Royal York area of Metropolitan Toronto, was one of the largest of its kind in size and land value. The survey work for this was commenced by Speight and Van Nos-

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trand in 1915. From the time of his return from World War I, until his retirement shortly before his death, Mr. Anderson was engaged in the development of the Home Smith Properties and at an early stage assuming full responsibility for title and subdivision survey work.

In the late nineteen twenties the re-alignment of railways and grade separations commenced in Toronto, along the waterfront from Bathurst St. to Cherry St. This lasted for a number of years and was a most complicated project, and Mr. Anderson was the master-mind behind the very extensive title survey work involved.

One of the few municipal surveys in the City of Toronto was number 790 which was confirmed in 1935. This established the street lines of King St., from Victoria to York, and Bay St., from Adelaide to Wellington. The limits here defined, under the direct supervision of Mr. Anderson, involved some of the most expensive real estate in Canada. Later he was involved in the early stages of the Dominion Tower project in the heart of Toronto's business section. This land assembly, completed since his death, comprised most of the block bounded by King, Bay, Wellington and York Sts., one of the most valuable parcels of land in Canada.

When the Department of Lands and Forests of Ontario wanted an expert in the settlement of a boundary dispute between two mining companies in the Gowganda area, R. M. Anderson was called upon, and fulfilled the trust imposed upon him.

He was an expert mathematician, very quick at calculations, and devised many short cuts of practical use in mathematics. He was well known as an expert on survey law and for many years lectured to survey students. His paper, "The Founding of Toronto," may be read in the 1933 O.L.S. Annual Report. At the 1963 Annual Meeting he participated in a panel discussion, his subject being "City Surveys". He had been Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. He was President in 1934.

Although he had so much to his credit, he was a most unassuming, kindly man. Three of his main characteristics were intelligence, integrity and modesty. He was an elder of Calvin Presbyterian Church, for many years a member of the Saturday Night Literary and Debating Club, and maintained his membership in the Canadian Corps Cyclists Association until his death.

Ralph Mackenzie Anderson passed away on April 9, 1964, at Dryden, Ontario. His wife, the former Elizabeth Young, his partner since 1920, predeceased him in 1963. He was interred in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto, beside the graves of his father and mother. He is survived by his son, David Young Anderson, P. Eng., of Dryden, Ontario.

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